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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,298	07/08/2003	Laszlo Sichtnik	10393.00	5975
7590	02/26/2004		EXAMINER	
Richard C. Litman LITMAN LAW OFFICES, LTD. P.O. Box 15035 Arlington, VA 22215			KHARE, DEVESH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1623	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/614,298	SICHTNIK, LASZLO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Devesh Khare	1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-29 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 14-29, drawn to a composition comprising pharmaceutically effective amounts of a local anaesthetic agent, an antimicrobial agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, and an integrator, classified in class 536, subclass various.
- II. Claim 1-10, drawn to a method of treating otitus media and otitis externa in a subject with the composition of Group I, classified in class 514, subclass various.
- III. Claim 11-13, drawn to an apparatus for administering a pharmaceutical powder composition, classified in class 422, subclass various.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I to II are related as product and process of making. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the process for using the product can be practiced with another materially different product i.e. a method of treating otitus media and otitis externa in a subject can be practiced with another materially different product.

Inventions I to III, are unrelated to one another. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). Group I is drawn to a composition comprising pharmaceutically effective amounts of a local anaesthetic agent, an antimicrobial agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, and an integrator, which is unrelated to an apparatus for administering a pharmaceutical powder composition, of Group III.

Inventions II to III, are unrelated to one another. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). Group II is drawn to a method of treating otitus media and otitis externa in a subject with the composition of Group I, which is unrelated to an apparatus for administering a pharmaceutical powder composition, of Group III.

Therefore, Groups I/III and II/III have different issues regarding patentability and enablement and represent patentably distinct subject matter, which merits separate and burdensome searches.

Although the inventions may be classified in the same class and sub-class, searching the three groups of inventions constitutes a burdensome search, as a thorough search comprises a search of foreign patents and non-patent literature as well as the appropriate U.S. patent classifications. Because these inventions are distinct for the

reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. It is noted that the three independent and distinct inventions would indeed impose an undue burden upon the examiner in charge of this application.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143). If applicant elects claims directed to the product and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined.

(MPEP § 821.04)

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventor ship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).

A telephone call was made to John Wenzel on 2-10-2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

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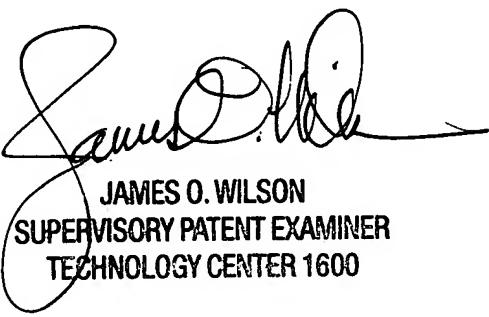
Examiner should be directed to Devesh Khare whose telephone number is (571) 272-0653.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson, Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1623 can be reached at 571-272-0661. The official fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556 or 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Devesh Khare, Ph.D.,JD(3Y).
Art Unit 1623
February 20, 2004


JAMES O. WILSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600